COMPARISON BETWEEN SABARMATI AND SANTINIKETAN

INTRODUCTION

The Ashrama is a system originated for the diffusion of external knowledge that could facilitate the inward journey systematically. Santiniketan was founded in 1901 by Maharshi Debendranath Tagore. Later Rabindranath Tagore established a school, the Brahmacharya ashram, within Santiniketan. Rabindranath believes in application of nature-based Vedic ecology in the public life, then polluted by English education under colonial patronage and supremacy. Tagore established his school in Santiniketan that promotes the individual freedom of the learner with a force on blossoming the inherent talent of a child not imposing the demand for uniformity that robs the uniqueness of individuals resulting in a new class in society that forgets their past values and practices. One of the ashrams that follows the Buddhist ideology. It represents the distillation of Rabindranath Tagore's greatest works and the continuing legacy of his model of education that reinterpreted ancient Vedic traditions with open- air classrooms arranged under the canopies of trees.

Sabarmati Ashrama is located on the banks of the Sabarmati River in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. This ashram founded in 25 May, 1917 by Mahatma Gandhi also known as Gandhi ashram and Harijan ashram. The ideology of this ashram became to set India free. To serve as aninstitution that would carry on a search for truth and platform to bring together a group of workers committed to non-violence who would help secure freedom for India. It was from that Gandhi led the Dandi March also known as the Salt Satyagraha on 12 March 1930. While at the ashram, Gandhi formed a tertiary school that focused on manual labor, agriculture, and literacy, in order to advance his efforts for the nation's self-sufficiency.

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Both the ashram has different purpose like Sabarmati focus on center for India's freedom movement and Gandhi social experiments. Were as Santiniketan focus educational and cultural center promoting liberal arts and holistic learning. The key activities Sabarmati of is non-violent freedom struggle, Khadi promotion, rural upliftment, and self-reliance programs.

On the other hand, Santiniketan promotes education, art, literature, music, rural reconstruction, and cultural exchange. It later evolved into Visva-Bharati University, promoting international harmony and holistic education.

In addition to teaching the regular academic subject such as language, literature, science, philosophy, religion,history, the university's curriculum also included fine arts, music and extracurricular activities "such as social works, gardening, student government and

celebration of different cultures and religious festivals. While Sabarmati ashram is rooted in political activism and social reform.Santiniketan bridges the Vedic ecology with the modern concept of sustainable development. The Buddha has immense importance in the philosophy of Santiniketan became Rabindranath Tagore was a great admirer of Buddhist ecology.

The prime objective of Tagore's educational mission in Santiniketan opposing mindless, mechanical leaning that separates an individual form the rest of humanity in the long run producing a greedy consumer who affects both nature and culture. Tagore was very much attracted by the buddha because Buddhism and its ideology of love, unity, and togetherness. And also, apart from Buddhism, he respects and encourage on Veda, purana, Christianity, Islam, Jainism, Taoism, and even Zoroastrianism while developing the view that such synthesis would serve the cause of humanity.

In 1912, Tagore together with agriculture economist Leonard Elmhurst help to set the Institute for Rural Reconstruction, later also renamed as Shrinikaten or 'Abode of welfare', in Surul, a village near the ashram, for sustainable rural development. Santiniketan ashrama was a place of experimentation with three As'- Afforestation, austerity, and alternatives- following the Buddhist ideology, the spiritual leadership of which has been endowed with a kind of universal sense of consciousness in the cosmos.

Santiniketan influenced educational and cultural institutions in south Asia in 20^{th} – century. But Santiniketan is a great example of encourage and introduce the educators, artists, crafts people, and workers who collaborated and experimented with Asian modernity based on the international that make upon the ancient, medieval, and folk traditions of India as well as Japanese, Chinese, Balinese, Burmese, and art deco forms. Tagore manifestation of a utopian ideal of connecting 20^{th} – century art, literature, poetry, music and architecture in the south Asian region.

In Santiniketan Tagore introduce culture events the blend with nature, art, education, and tradition. These festivals reflect Tagore's philosophy of harmony with nature and culture openness. Some major events are like Poush mela, Basanta Utsav, Rabindra Jayanti etc.

The Sabarmati ashram also play an important role to uplift rural India by promoting education, cleanliness, and self-sufficiency. It served as a space to experiment with community living and socio- political reforms based on equality and justice. Santiniketan pursued intellectual freedom, artistic expression, and global peace, becoming a hub for scholars, poets and artists from around the world.

Sabarmati ashram deeply influenced by Hindu philosophy, especially ideas from the Bhagavad Gita, Jain principals of non-violence (Ahimsa) and universal brotherhood. Gandhi emphasized Sarva Dharma Sambhava (equal respect for all religions) – the belief that all religions are different paths leading to the same truth. And also practices at the ashram included prayer meeting of all religion.

But this ashram does not encourage any kind of western culture and educational institutions. But in this ashram Gandhi did not introduce this link of events as the ashram motive is to focusing on freedom, simplicity, and social justice. But here Gandhi Jayanti is celebrated.

But In Santiniketan based on Brahmo samaj philosophy a reformist movement within Hinduism the rejected idol worship, emphasized one formless god, and promoted rational, ethical, and spiritual living. Tagore himself believed in universal humanism – the unity of humanity beyond religious and cultural boundaries. The place mostly encourage spiritual freedom, natural worship, and creative expression rather than strict religion orthodoxy are followed here.

There is huge difference in these ashrams in cultures, philosophy in respected to the educations, arts, traditions one of the ashrams follows the ideology of open-minded free form every boundary of burden. The other ashram is closed and only focused on political activism, social reforms, self – sufficient with community living.

Santiniketan has been recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage site. In September 2023. And have renowned university and cultural hub; continues Tagore's educational ideals. Both were ahead of their time, inspiring different aspects of India's national life- one through freedom and nonviolence, the other through education and culture renaissance.

Conclusion

Both Sabarmati ashram and Santiniketan hold immense historical and cultural significance in India, yet they reflect the distinct philosophies of their founders. Sabarmati ashram, established by Mahatma Gandhi, became a symbol of India's center of social reform. On other hand Santiniketan founded by Rabindranath Tagore, represents a vision of holistic education blending of art, nature and learning beyond conventional classrooms. This ashram exchanges the cultural and internal freedom. Sabarmati ashram mainly focused on political awakening and moral discipline, Santiniketan focused education, culture and universal human values. Together, they reflect two complementary facets of India's path to independence and cultural identity – one through social activism and the other through education and artistic expression.